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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Examiner: Edmundson, Lynne Renee

Docket: NI 161- U&S

Applicant(s): Christoph Schilling

Serial No.: 10/762050

In Response to Paper No. 20060902

Filing Date: 16/01/04

Art Unit: 1725

**Title: METOD AND APPARATUS FOR JOINING AT LEAST TWO
WORKPIECES BY FRICTION STIR WELDING**

**Commissioner for Patents
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
FAX 571 273 8300 – 6 pages**

December 22, 2006

SIR:

In response to the official action dated 09/25//06, please amend the present application as indicated below under "Amendments to the Claims":